

south bay⁸ kids

a non profit youth corporation #77-0506516
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July 21, 2006

Mayor Jose Esteves and Distinguished Members of the Milpitas City Council:

Good evening to all of you and I hope that your summer is going well and you are finding some time to relax and enjoy it.

I am writing this letter to you on behalf of South Bay Kids, South Bay School of Music Arts and the Milpitas Chamber of Commerce.

Our Art and Wine Festival is approaching soon. This year, as you know, it is being called "Celebrate Milpitas" in order to showcase our City's rich cultural diversity. Since the first year of the original Art and Wine Festival back in 1988, we have had the honor and privilege of being a part by performing all day on both Saturday and Sunday. This year is no different. We are honored to be a part of this new venture. With all of the shows that we do during the year and all the places we travel, this weekend is still our most important and favorite show of them all, and that includes our shows in Disneyland!!

As you know, we are a Milpitas based (proud Milpitas based) non-profit organization. Due to increased costs and loss of revenue by the City, a fee to use certain City items, such as the City Stage was implemented 2 years ago. Unfortunately for us, we cannot afford the \$3100 total cost of renting the stage for the weekend. While we are sympathetic to the financial needs of our City, we simply cannot afford it.

We perform for free on both days. In fact, if I am not mistaken, we are the ONLY organization out there on this weekend, who is not there to make money. We appear in order to perform for our hometown citizens. In fact, some years, it costs us as we need the correct equipment to put on as professional a show as we can. We hope that we are meeting our goal.

We are, again, asking the City Council to waive the fees for the rental of the Stage for this year's Festival. You have been most generous by granting us the waiver for the past two summers. We are very much hoping that you will be able to

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help us out again this year. If I am not in error, I believe that the Chamber will pick up the cost of the towing.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter and we hope to see you at some of our upcoming shows!!

Yours Truly,

Joe Santoro